

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**SECURE USER CERTIFICATION FOR ELECTRONIC COMMERCE**
EMPLOYING VALUE METERING SYSTEM

A system and method include means for processing a cryptographic
5 certificate adapted to provide security functionality. A register means is
provided and means for adjusting the register means to account for services
when the cryptographic certificate is processed. In accordance with another
aspect, a system and method include a register means for storing funds.
Means are provided for processing a digital token providing proof of postage
10 payment and means are also provided for processing a cryptographic
certificate adapted to provide security functionality. Means debit funds
stored in the register means when the digital token is processed and when
the cryptographic certificate is processed. Processing the cryptographic
certificate may involve many functions such as providing security services
15 and/or certificate management functions (including generating and verifying
cryptographic certificates) and/or key management functions and/or access
to any needed private keys to perform security services. Processing the
digital token may include generating the digital token or issuing the digital
token.